

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13824 030917Z

20

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 IO-03 L-01 PRS-01

CU-01 A-01 PER-01 SY-02 RSC-01 /040 W

----- 094793

R 030800Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9988

INFO AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13824

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING BIEN HOA TEL SENT ACTION AE SAIGON 31 OCT BEING REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL BIEN HOA 563

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJ: CAPITAL MILITARY DISTRICT COMMANDER DISCUSSED OCTOBER 31
DEMONSTRATIONS

1. I KEPT LONG-STANDING APPOINTMENT WITH CAPITAL MILITARY DISTRICT
COMMANDER, ADMIRAL CHUNG TAN CANG, AT 1500 HOURS OCTOBER 31. DURING
HOUR AND HALF'S DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY,
HE TOUCHED UPON TODAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS IN SAIGON. EMBASSY
MAY FIND FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST:

A. CANG WAS PRESENT AT THE MAIN "BATTLE GROUND" THIS MORNING
NEAR 7TH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL WHERE POLICE INTERDICTED THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13824 030917Z

PROTESTORS' MARCH TOWARD CENTER OF CITY. HE WAS IMPRESSED AS

WELL AS DISTRESSED THAT 70 PERCENT OF THE CROWD OF "SEVERAL HUNDRED" WERE YOUNG BOYS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 8 AND 12. HE SAID THE REST RANGED IN AGE UP TO 18 YEARS EXCEPT FOR A HANDFUL OF OLDER PEOPLE. EACH YOUTH WAS ARMED WITH A STICK AND ONE OR MORE ROCKS. ALTHOUGH HE AND POLICE CHIEF OF THE AREA WERE SURROUNDED BY THESE YOUTHS AT ONE POINT, THEY WERE NOT ATTACKED. FATHER THANH HAD BEEN PRESENT USING A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM ABOUT 30 MINUTES BEFORE CANG'S ARRIVAL. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT THIS AREA CONTAINS ONE OF SAIGON'S GREATEST CONCENTRATIONS OF THUGGERY. REPORTS THAT FATHER THANH WAS INJURED IN THE SCUFFLING ARE NOT TRUE, CANG SAID. HE KNOCKED HIS EYE GLASSES OFF AND THEY WERE BROKEN WHILE HE WAS HANDLING THE P.A. SYSTEM, BUT THERE WERE NO INJURIES.

B. CANG WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT NON-PARTICIPATING SPECTATORS THIS MORNING JUST WATCHED BUT DID NOT JOIN IN. HE TAKES THIS AS A SIGN THAT THE PROTESTS, WHICH MAY HAVE GAINED THE PUBLIC INTEREST, HAVE NOT SPARKED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. HE WAS ALSO ENCOURAGED THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE WHAT MAY BE THE MAXIMUM EFFORT OF THE PROTESTORS.

C. THIS CROWD OF ARMED YOUTH WAS TRYING TO REACH OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS NEAR THE CITY CENTER BUT WAS CLEARLY ORGANIZED AND INSTIGATED BY FATHER THANH'S MOVEMENT.

D. POLICE AND OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC ORDER WILL REMAIN ON SPECIAL ALERT DURING THE COMING DAYS BUT CANG THOUGHT THERE WERE GOOD PROSPECTS THAT NOV 1, 2, AND 3 WOULD REMAIN QUIET. CANG HAS INSTRUCTED THE MAYOR OF SAIGON AND THE GIA DINH PROVINCE CHIEF TO CONTINUE AVOIDANCE OF VIOLENCE TO BREAK UP DEMONSTRATIONS AND TO KEEP LIFE AS NORMAL AS POSSIBLE IN THE CITY. TO THAT END, HE HAD TOLD THE MAYOR OF SAIGON TO REOPEN THE SAIGON MARKET "GRADUALLY" DURING THE AFTERNOON OF OCT 31 AFTER IT WAS CLOSED IN THE MORNING.

E. CANG'S HEADQUARTERS HAS INTELLIGENCE THAT THE PROTEST MOVEMENTS HAVE TARGETED FOR BURNING THE COURT IN WHICH THE NEWS-PAPER TRIALS ARE TO TAKE PLACE (CORNER OF CONG LY AND GIA LONG) THESE TRIALS WERE POSTPONED FROM OCTOBER 30 NOVEMBER 28 IN THE HOPE THAT PROTEST ACTIVITY WOULD DECLINE IN THE MEANTIME. THE BURNING OF THE COURT BUILDING HAD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13824 030917Z

BEEN TARGETED FOR "NOW" AND AN ATTEMPT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS IS STILL POSSIBLE, ADMIRAL CANG THOUGHT, BUT THE ATTEMPT MAY BE DEFERRED WITH THE TRIAL POSTPONEMENT.

F. CANG SEES FATHER THANH FAIRLY OFTEN, MOST RECENTLY OCTOBER 29 WHEN THANH TOLD HIM THAT HIS OBJECTIVE NOW IS TO BRING THIEU DOWN - TO FORCE HIM OUT OF THE PRESIDENCY AS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION FOR ELIMINATION OF CORRUPTION. CANG QUOTED FATHER THANH

"TO KILL A SNAKE YOU STRIKE IT'S HEAD." CANG SAID THAT ONLY
A FEW WEEKS AGO THANH HAD SAID TO HIM, AS HE HAS TO OTHERS, THAT
HE WAS WILLING FOR THE PRESIDENT TO REMAIN IN OFFICE PROVIDED HE
TOOK THE NECESSARY STEPS AGAINST CORRUPTION.

PETERS
UNQUOTE
MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CORRUPTION, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON13824
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740315-0226
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741175/aaaaclyv.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <21 MAR 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAPITAL MILITARY DISTRICT COMMANDER DISCUSSED OCTOBER 31 DEMONSTRATIONS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS, (CHUNG TAN CANG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005